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## Letter dated 15 May 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement issued on 8 May 2002 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union concerning the release of Aung San Suu Kyi (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a General Assembly document, under agenda item 119 (b).

(*Signed*) Inocencio F. **Arias**
Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations

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## Annex to the letter dated 15 May 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

## Statement on the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, issued on 8 May 2002 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the unconditional release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest and expresses its satisfaction to the Burmese authorities on this important step. The European Union is encouraged to learn that the State Peace and Development Council considers 6 May 2002 as "opening a new page for the people of Myanmar". The European Union hopes that this new beginning will lead to a substantive dialogue between the parties concerned, bringing about a genuine process of democratization in the country. The European Union commends the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy, Razali Ismail, for his good offices.

The European Union will continue to follow developments closely and remains prepared to review and adapt its position as soon as substantive progress in the democratization process warrants it.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the EFTA countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.